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OCI No. 1569/63
18 June 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Current
Intelligence

SUBJECT : Preliminary Comment on [REDACTED] Mission
156 Flown on 12 June 1963

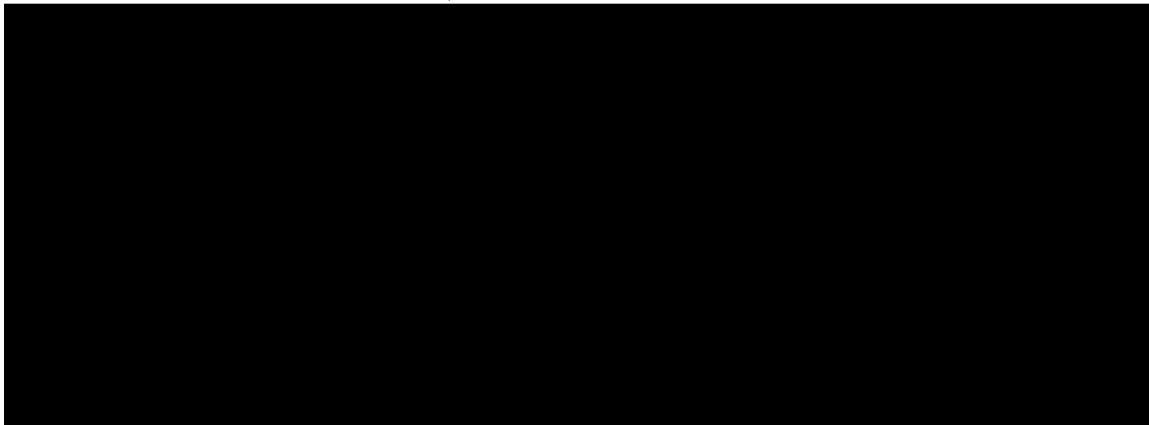
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1. This mission, flown over North and East China, was an extension of the search for [REDACTED] facilities in Communist China. Some of the areas photographed in this mission had been previously covered by [REDACTED] facilities of missile sites were observed on [REDACTED]-156. There was one Elint intercept of surface-to-air missile (SAM) guidance radar in East China.

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Advanced Weapons



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3. A Fan Song (target tracking and missile guidance) radar signal of short duration (e.g., 1.5 seconds) was detected by the mission aircraft as it passed over the city of Wuhu, located in East China. There was no direction-finding information available on this intercept, which was picked up on a very sensitive omni-directional receiver. The fact that no SAM sites have been detected in South China suggests that this signal may have come from equipment-testing activity at the previously identified Nanking

Radar Plant. This plant lies approximately 50 miles northeast of Wuhu and is known to have been involved in the production of early warning radars.

Military

4. Five major airfields were covered by this mission. Air order-of-battle noted at tactical airbases at Chingshuiho, Chengchou, and Wuhu was in general agreement with our official estimate. Linfen airfield, located in a fairly remote area of North China, was photographed for the first time. The Chinese Communists completely reconstructed this installation on the site of a former Japanese airfield. It is capable of supporting jet medium bombers. Fifty-nine MIG-15 (Fagot) aircraft, probably subordinate to an air force training unit, were photographed on the field. A 7,800-foot hard-surfaced runway is under construction near the old unserviceable airstrip located east of Huhohaote (Kueisui), the administrative capital of Inner Mongolia. It has not been determined if this field will serve civil or military authorities; at the present time, there are no known military airbases in Inner Mongolia.

5. A military installation consisting of a troop-housing area, tank-maintenance facilities, and a tank-training area containing six tanks was identified at Tatung. This military camp lies within the Peiping Military Region and may house an element of one of the two armored divisions carried in ground order-of-battle holdings for this region.

Industry

6. The transshipment station at Chining in Inner Mongolia was photographed on this mission. This installation is located on the Trans-Mongolian Railroad and serves as the primary change-of-gauge point for goods moving between the USSR and China. This photography revealed that the facilities at Chining are operating at approximately 10-20 percent capacity. This low level of activity tends to confirm previous indications that Communist China is attempting to reduce her dependence on material support from the USSR.

7. Photography was also obtained on the large dam serving the Sanmen Gorge Hydroelectric Power Plant located on the Yellow River. Although the transformer and switching station are apparently completed, the power house and generator hall are still under construction.

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